

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 11-16 are pending in the present application; Claim 11 having been amended by way of the present amendment.

This amendment is responsive to the Official Action of February 22, 2008, and the Advisory Action of September 11, 2008, and supplemental to the Amendment of August 22, 2008.

The Advisory Action requests clarification with respect to the § 112 rejection and how the specification supports the claim language. Claim 11 has been amended to recite that the formations are formed from “moldable materials comprising a curable resin, ceramic particulate filler materials, and chopped carbon fiber.” Thus, the invention as set forth in Claim 11 requires each of: (1) curable resin; (2) ceramic particulate filler materials; and (3) chopped carbon fiber. This amendment is supported by the originally filed specification at p. 12, lines 11-15. In this paragraph, there is recited a curable resin, the ceramic particulate filler materials, and also chopped carbon fiber materials.

Moreover, the originally filed specification indicates that the invention can be implemented using PROGUARD CRB. As set forth in the previously filed amendment, PROGUARD CRB may include, for example, silicon carbide and/or titanium nitride, for example. Both of these are ceramic. Thus, the specification provides support for the resin, ceramic, and chopped carbon fiber.

Accordingly, the rejection under 35 U.S.C. § 112, second paragraph is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

It has been noticed that the symbol for silicon carbide had a typographical error in the specification on p. 12, the capital letter "I" was changed to a lower case "i" to properly recite SiC. Also, the formula for Alumina has been corrected.

Turning now to the prior art rejection, the claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 and/or § 103 in view of Hwang (U.S. 5,902,656).

The claimed invention requires resin, ceramic particulate filler materials, and chopped carbon fiber. After reviewing Hwang, it is not clear where there is disclosed ceramic particulate filler materials. The next Official Action is respectfully requested to identify where in Hwang the ceramic particulate filler materials are located.

With respect to the chopped carbon fiber, Claim 11 has been amended to specifically recite "carbon fiber." Carbon fiber is a well known term and means something very specific.

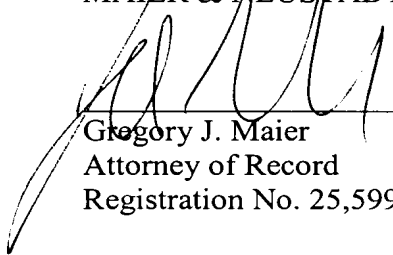
The carbon black fibers relied upon in Hwang are different from carbon fiber. The claimed carbon fiber cannot be interpreted to include carbon black in a fiber form.

Accordingly, the prior art rejection is respectfully requested to be withdrawn.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, the present application is in condition for formal allowance and an early and favorable action to that effect is requested.

Respectfully submitted,

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